

Torrance, California
November 10, 1942

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF TORRANCE

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, on Tuesday, November 10, 1942 at 7:45 P.M.

Mayor McGuire called the meeting to order.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll, those answering present being
Councilmen: Babcock, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. Absent:
Councilmen: Cucci.

All those present in the Council Chamber Saluted the Flag!

Councilman Powell moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held October 27, 1942 and of an Adjourned Regular Meeting held October 30, 1942 be approved as written. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from the First Church of Christ, Scientist, in reply to communication from the City Council relative to chairs belonging to the City and in use by the church. It was advised that sixty City owned chairs are in use at the church. Matter of record.

A communication was read from Milky Williams Lodge, Local No. 1414, Steel Workers Organizing Committee, C.I.O., advising that one hundred eighty City owned chairs are in use by said organization. Matter of record.

A communication was read from Marcella Crook, Court Clerk of the City of Torrance, tendering her resignation from said position, effective November 16, 1942, and expressing appreciation for the many courtesies extended her during her period of employment.

Councilman Powell moved that the resignation of Marcella Crook from the position of Court Clerk of the City of Torrance, effective November 16, 1942, be accepted, and that Miss Crook be extended a vote of thanks by the City Council for her meritorious services. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from S. Miller, Operator, Torrance Municipal Bus Lines, advising that he was inducted into the United States Army October 26, 1942 and worked until October 30, 1942 during his leave of absence. Matter of record.

A communication was read from the Associated Assessment Engineers relative to the following tax deeded properties which said company is attempting to liquidate for the City: Lot 6, Block 304, Tract 1952 and Part of Lot S, Tract 1952. In order to clear title to the above properties, it was requested that a warrant be drawn in favor of "Trustee of the Estate of Loa Helmer, Bankrupt", in the sum of \$25.00, to be mailed to Mr. Armstrong, Special City Attorney, 6253 Hollywood Boulevard, Hollywood.

Councilman Babcock moved that a warrant be drawn in favor of "Trustee of the Estate of Loa Helmer, Bankrupt", in the sum of \$25.00 for clearing title to Lot 6, Block 304, Tract 1952 and Part of Lot S, Tract 1952; said warrant to be mailed to Alfred Armstrong, Special City Attorney, 6253 Hollywood Boulevard, Hollywood. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Cucci.

A communication was read from the Associated Assessment Engineers relative to Lots 4, 5 and 6, Block 14, Torrance Tract, in which it was stated that title to the properties mentioned had been cleared. Essential facts were recapitulated.

It was requested that the City advise Associated Assessment Engineers whether or not it is desired to retain possession of the property for municipal use, and, if so, that a tentative use of the lots be stipulated to exempt the property from further taxation; or, if the City does not wish to retain possession of the property, a recommendation be made regarding sale price in order that a sale may be negotiated and the property thereby returned to the tax rolls.

Councilman Babcock moved that the communication be referred to the Council for discussion and report at the next regular meeting. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the City of Torrance Civil Service Board, calling attention to Rule XII, Sections 1 and 2 of the Civil Service Rules and Regulations governing transfers. It was requested that all requests for transfers and all other personnel matters be referred to the Personnel Board for review and action, and that Mr. Albert Treloar, whose transfer from the Bus Department to the Division of City Garage, Department of Engineering and Public Works, was authorized by the City Council at an Adjourned Regular Meeting October 30, 1942, remain under the jurisdiction of the Bus Department until his transfer has been requested and approved in the manner set forth in the Rules.

A short discussion ensued in which it was stated that it had not been the intention of the Council to violate any of the Rules and Regulations of the Civil Service Board, but that it had been the impression of the Council that Mr. Treloar had been under the jurisdiction of the Division of City Garage since he started work in the garage.

Councilman Babcock moved that the motion made at an Adjourned Regular Meeting held October 30, 1942 instructing Mr. Albert Treloar to report for instructions in his work to Mr. L. C. Fix, City Garage, be rescinded, and that the City Clerk be instructed to request the Civil Service Board to transfer Mr. Albert Treloar from the Bus Department to the Division of City Garage, Mr. Treloar, when transferred, to report to the City Garage mechanic for assignment of duties. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from D. C. Cook, U.S.N., submitting a claim for \$10.00 per month additional pay for the period July 1, 1942 to August 26, 1942, this amount representing difference in salary received by Mr. Cook for his services and salary due him in accordance with his Employee's Classification.

Mr. Jain, City Engineer, recommended allowance of the additional pay as requested. Communication was read from Mr. Jain to this effect.

Councilman Babcock moved that the request of D. C. Cook that he be given an additional check representing difference between salary of \$145.00 per month and \$155.00 per month, amounting to \$10.00 per month for the period July 1, 1942 to August 26, 1942, be granted, and that a warrant be drawn for same. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Cucci.

A communication was read from the Mack-International Motor Truck Corporation, inquiring as to whether or not the City would consider selling the Mack 1000-gallon pumper purchased from said company on August 17, 1939, and offering to furnish the City with names of a number of Cities desiring to purchase this particular type of equipment.

Councilman Powell moved that the communication be filed for future reference. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Southern California Taven Association, protesting the proposed pin marble game ordinance, claiming that \$180.00 per year per machine as established by said proposed ordinance is an exorbitant license fee. Mr. Ray S. Adams, Managing Director of the Association, requested notification of the date the ordinance will be presented for first reading.

Councilman Powell moved that the communication be placed on file. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A petition bearing the signatures of twenty-five residents and business men was read, requesting that the City Council appoint Mr. Harry W. Slover as a member of the Torrance Police Department, relating reasons for making said request and summarizing Mr. Slover's past experience which it was stated fit him for the position he seeks.

Councilman Powell moved that the petition be filed.

A short discussion ensued, at which time Mayor McGuire stated

he had no knowledge of Mr. Slover's desire for a position with the Police Department, although, he related, he had conversed with Mr. Slover at various times upon meeting him. Mayor McGuire asked Chief Stroh whether or not Mr. Slover had applied to him for a position with the Police Department, the reply being in the affirmative.

A question arose regarding manner of applying for positions with the City, Councilman Hitchcock contending that applications should be made through the Civil Service Board.

Councilman Powell stated that when a man approaches one and informs that he desires a position, and further states which position must be given him, he is out of order.

Councilman Hitchcock seconded Councilman Powell's motion to file the petition requesting that Harry W. Slover be appointed a member of the Police Department, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Torrance Municipal Water District No. 1, signed by W. H. Stanger, Manager, submitting estimates of cost of installing fire hydrants at (1) Santa Clara Street and Engracia Avenue as requested by the Columbia Steel Company, \$1890.00 and (2) Llewellyn Street and Engracia Avenue, \$1271.00. Mr. Stanger advised that installation of fire hydrant at Santa Clara Street and Engracia Avenue would constitute a dead end of three hundred feet in the water system, whereas installation of a hydrant at Llewellyn Street and Engracia Avenue would allow for connection to the six inch main on Llewellyn Street after the war, thereby eliminating two dead ends. Mr. Stanger stated further that, although sufficient materials for either installation are in stock, authorization for use must be given by the War Production Board.

Mr. Stanger suggested that the communication be referred to Fire Chief McMaster for his recommendation.

Chief McMaster reported that both he and Mr. Stanger had studied this matter thoroughly, and that, originally, he had recommended that the Company install a line on their own property from inside the plant, to connect with the Company's own wells. This suggestion had met with the approval of the officials and Army inspectors, Chief McMaster stated, but, evidently after conferring further, it had been decided to request the City to install the line and hydrant, whereupon the communication requesting same had been directed to the City.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Chief McMaster and Mr. Stanger confer further with Columbia Steel officials, and particularly Mr. Kresse, General Superintendent of the Company, and arrive at a satisfactory agreement, the combined recommendation of Chief McMaster and Mr. Stanger to be presented at the next regular meeting. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$271.92 be made for purchase of 24 5/8" x 3/4" meters, without couplings, to be used in Park Knoll Tract in accordance with request of the Torrance Municipal Water District No. 1. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Cucci.

Councilman Powell moved that Lucille Lewellen be employed on a temporary basis as Court Clerk of the City of Torrance, effective date of employment November 12, 1942, at a beginning salary of \$100.00 per month. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Cucci.

Councilman Powell read a communication from Chief of Police Stroh, in which Chief Stroh recommended employment of Mr. Bennett Black, radio technician, to replace Mr. Harold Peery, who is leaving for the United States Navy November 15, 1942. Chief Stroh recommended payment of \$7.50 per week, this being the same amount paid Mr. Peery. An agreement to perform certain services in con-

nection with the Police Department radio equipment, signed by Mr. Bennett Black, was enclosed.

Councilman Powell moved that the recommendation of Chief Stroh that Mr. Bennett Black be employed to perform certain services in connection with the Police Department radio equipment at a salary of \$7.50 per week during absence of Mr. Harold Peery be complied with, and that the Mayor be authorized to execute agreement with Mr. Black. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Cucci.

Councilman Powell read in part a communication from Chief Stroh in which Chief Stroh listed names of persons who have applied for positions as patrolmen of the Torrance Police Department.

Councilman Powell moved that George W. Henderson of 533 West Vernon Avenue, Los Angeles, be employed on a temporary basis as a Patrolman, Torrance Police Department, at a beginning salary of \$145.00 per month. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Cucci.

Councilman Powell moved that Frank O. Shanault of 275 North Hill Street, Pasadena, be employed on a temporary basis as a Patrolman, Torrance Police Department, at a beginning salary of \$145.00 per month. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Cucci.

Councilman Powell brought up the subject of additional storage of emergency defense equipment, stating that a shipment of equipment is expected within the next fifteen days, and that there is no available space for storage of same. He said he had contacted Mr. Harvel Guttenfelder, who has suitable garage space at his place of business, the space being large enough to store the City owned ambulance recently donated by the Kiwanis Club, and said space having an entrance from the alley adjacent to the Post Office Building.

Councilman Powell moved that Engineer Jain be instructed to ascertain whether or not the building is suitable for housing the ambulance recently dedicated to the City by the Kiwanis Club, and, if so, to negotiate an agreement with Mr. Harvel Guttenfelder for rental of the space on a temporary month to month basis.

Engineer Jain advised he had already looked at the space, and substantiated Councilman Powell's statement that additional storage space is a vital necessity. He said Mr. Guttenfelder would, he believed, be quite willing to rent the space for \$10.00 per month. Also, he said, Mr. Guttenfelder had advised that he has a double garage in the rear of his apartments which the City can rent for storage if it so desires.

Councilman Powell requested that his motion be made to include "for a rental fee of \$10.00 per month, provided this arrangement is satisfactory to all persons concerned." Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Powell brought up the subject of purchasing additional vehicles for transporting defense equipment which the City expects to receive.

Councilman Powell moved that Mr. Jain be instructed to obtain estimates of the cost of used vehicles, such as trucks, suitable for use in transporting fire equipment to and from fires in case of emergency. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion.

A discussion ensued regarding amount of equipment expected by the Fire Department from the Office of Civilian Defense. Upon direct question, Chief McMaster stated that seven pieces of equipment are expected. When asked how many vehicles will be required to transport the additional equipment, he gave an estimate of four trucks and three cars. The Fire Department Oldsmobile can possibly be used in this capacity, he said.

Purchase of additional vehicles will further increase the need for storage space, Councilman Powell remarked. It was unanimously agreed that the vehicles should be stored in various parts of the City to guard against possible destruction by bombs of all or a large part of the equipment at any one time. When the acute shortage of storage space was again mentioned, Attorney McCall volunteered to donate use of garage space sufficiently large to house two trucks, being his residence. Councilman Powell likewise donated a garage large^{at} enough to house one vehicle.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$100.00 be made for repairing the roof on the garage in the rear of the fire station, and the roof of the fire tower. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Cucci.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$225.00, plus tax, be made for purchase of glassware for street lights, necessary for an effective dim-out of the City. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Cucci.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Engineer be authorized to hire a mechanic on a temporary basis for work at the City Garage at a salary of not to exceed \$200.00 per month. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Cucci.

Councilman Babcock requested Mr. Ward to estimate the minimum amount of time required for performance of stenographic duties for the Municipal Bus Lines. Mr. Ward advised that accumulated work amounts to two weeks full time work, the accumulated work consisting of various Governmental reports, mileage reports, and other work, all of which should have been completed by November 1, 1942. Upon completion of the accumulated work, Mr. Ward stated, four hours each day should be sufficient time for keeping the work up to date.

It was suggested that Mrs. Lewellen, newly employed Court Clerk and Mrs. Scott, stenographer in the office of the Housing Authority, perform the stenographic services required by the Municipal Bus Lines.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Chief of Police Stroh requested the press to refrain from printing any information whatsoever about defense equipment expected to be received by the City Fire Department. He stated that the Office of Civilian Defense had warned against publicizing receipt of this type of equipment.

Chief Stroh reported he had received a telephone call from the War Production Board requesting the city to submit a requisition for automobiles expected to be purchased between now and 1944 for protection of life and property. He said the requisition should be filed with the W.P.B. and renewed every ninety days. Mr. Jain was instructed to contact the War Production Board further regarding this matter.

Councilman Hitchcock moved all bills properly audited be paid. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Cucci.

Mayor McGuire announced that the November 19th meeting of the League of California Cities will be held in the Elks Club, Los Angeles, which has been agreed upon as a permanent and central meeting place to relieve transportation problems.

Engineer Jain reminded the Council of the meeting Monday evening (November 16) at 5:00 P.M. between the City Council, the City Planning Commission, and Mr. Sampson of the Regional Planning Commission of the County of Los Angeles.

At 8:44 P.M., upon motion of Councilman Hitchcock, seconded by Councilman Babcock, the meeting adjourned.


City Clerk of the City of Torrance

APPROVED:


Mayor of the City of Torrance